

PATENT
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III. REMARKS

A. Status Summary

Claims 1 – 24 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 – 24 are rejected. Claims 1, 15, and 19 have been amended and claim 25 has been added, as set forth above in Section II of this amendment.

B. Specification

As indicated above, certain paragraphs of the specification have been amended to correct minor, non-substantive errors. These amendments are believed to be fully supported by the application as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter is believed to have been added.

C. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 – 3, 5 – 7, 13 – 20, and 23 – 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,841,102 to Elsner et al. (“Elsner”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because, as to each rejected claim, Elsner fails to teach each and every element or feature recited in the claim.

Claim 1 is directed to “an air seal system for a loudspeaker”. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that “a first portion of the segment extends through the break into the passage and terminates at the first end, and a second portion of the segment extends through the break into the passage adjacent to the first end and terminates at the second end

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for forming a localized airtight seal". Elsner fails to disclose this feature. Elsner teaches enclosing an electronic circuit within a housing, and providing a wire-shaped shield in a groove of the housing to isolate electromagnetic radiation emanating from the circuit.

Claims 2 - 3, 5 - 7, 13 and 14 depend or ultimately depend from claim 1, and therefore are distinguishable at least for the same reasons.

Independent claim 15 is also directed to "an air seal system for a loudspeaker". Claim 15 has been amended solely for the purpose of improving its form, and not for any purpose believed to relate to patentability. Claim 15 as originally filed recites "means for creating an airtight seal between the baffle board and the housing". Elsner fails to disclose this feature.

Claims 16 - 20 and 23 - 24 depend or ultimately depend from claim 15, and therefore are distinguishable at least for the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 - 3, 5 - 7, 13 - 20, and 23 - 24 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Elsner, and therefore requests that the rejection to claims 1 - 3, 5 - 7, 13 - 20, and 23 - 24 be withdrawn.

D. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Elsner in view of cited case law. Claim 4 ultimately depends from claim 1, which for the reasons stated above is allowable. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 4 is patentable as depending from an allowable claim 1.

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Claims 8, 9, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Elsner in view of US Patent No. 1,816,301 to Sundell. Claims 8 and 9 depend or ultimately depend from claim 1, and claims 21 and 22 depend or ultimately from claim 15. Claims 1 and 15 are allowable for the reasons stated above. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8, 9, 21 and 22 are patentable as depending from their respective base claims 1 and 15.

Claims 8 – 12, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Elsner in view of US Patent No. 4,617,775 to Padrun. Claims 8 – 12 depend or ultimately depend from claim 1, and claims 21 and 22 depend or ultimately from claim 15. Claims 1 and 15 are allowable for the reasons stated above. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8 – 12, 21 and 22 are patentable as depending from their respective base claims 1 and 15.

Claims 8, 9, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Elsner in view of US Patent No. 5,331,725 to Chou. Claims 8 and 9 depend or ultimately depend from claim 1, and claims 21 and 22 depend or ultimately from claim 15. Claims 1 and 15 are allowable for the reasons stated above. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8, 9, 21 and 22 are patentable as depending from their respective base claims 1 and 15.

Claims 8 – 11, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Elsner in view of US Patent No. 4,298,204 to Jenkins. Claims 8 – 11 depend or ultimately depend from claim 1, and claims 21 and 22 depend or ultimately from claim 15. Claims 1 and 15 are allowable for the reasons stated above. Thus, Applicants

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respectfully submit that claims 8 – 11, 21 and 22 are patentable as depending from their respective base claims 1 and 15.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4, 8 – 12, 21 and 22 are patentable over the cited prior art of record under 5 U.S.C. § 103(a).

E. Other Claim Amendments

Apart from the amendments discussed above, applicants note that claim 19 has been amended to substitute the definite article “the” for a second use of the indefinite article “a”. This minor amendment is not made in response to a substantive rejection or for any purpose believed to relate to patentability.

F. New Claim 25

New claim 25 has been added and is believed to be patentable over the prior art of record. New claim 25 is believed to be fully supported throughout the specification as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter is believed to have been added.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request entry and allowance of claim 25.

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IV. CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

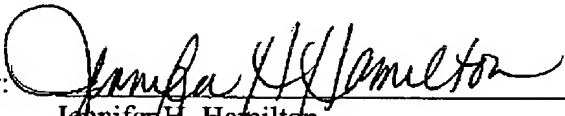
If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

Respectfully submitted,

THE ECLIPSE GROUP

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